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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

23 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Carmichael – Man Arrested for Series of Hate Crimes at Synagogue, Homes, and School

(U) The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has arrested a man suspected of a series of hate crimes against a Carmichael synagogue and neighborhood, authorities said. Nicholas Sherman, 33, is charged with desecrating a religious symbol on the property of the Shalom Le Israel synagogue in Carmichael and targeting several homes and an elementary school with white supremacist leaflets, the county's sheriff and district attorney said. Sherman is charged with one felony count for the incident at the synagogue, and 12 misdemeanor counts of terrorism for placing bags of uncooked rice with Aryan nation flyers containing a swastika on the doorsteps of several homes and an elementary school. SOURCE: 22 December 2021, KCRA3

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas - Mara-Salvatrucha and Paisa Gang Members Arrested in Rio Grande Valley

(U) McAllen – Rio Grande Valley Sector agents conducting processing duties identified four gang members in a single day. On 21 December, border patrol agents arrested three Salvadoran nationals and one Mexican national. Records checks revealed three of these individuals are Mara-Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang members and one is a Paisa gang member. All subjects were processed accordingly. SOURCE: 22 December 2021, CBP

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Proud Boys Member Pleads Guilty to Capitol Riot Conspiracy Charge

(U) Washington – A member of the Proud Boys pleaded guilty yesterday to two felony charges stemming from his participation at the Capitol riot on 6 January and agreed to cooperate with the government's investigation. Matthew Greene, a National Guard veteran who prosecutors say is a member of his local chapter of the Proud Boys in Syracuse, New York, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of obstructing the official proceeding of Congress' certification of the electoral college votes during the January 6 Capitol attack.

SOURCE: 22 December 2021, CBS News

(U) Massachusetts – Harvard Professor Convicted by US Jury of Lying about China Ties

(U) Boston – A Harvard University professor was convicted on Tuesday of US charges that he lied about his ties to a China-run recruitment program in a closely-watched case stemming from a crackdown on Chinese influence within US research. A federal jury in Boston found Charles Lieber, a renowned nanoscientist and the former chairman of Harvard's chemistry department, guilty of making false statements to authorities, filing false tax returns, and failing to report a Chinese bank account. SOURCE: 21 December 2021, Reuters

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan - Suicide Bomber Killed at Kabul Passport Office Gate

(U) Kabul – A suicide bomber was killed at the gate of a passport office in the Afghan capital Kabul today, a government spokesman said, and several people were injured in the blast, according to unconfirmed reports. A spokesman for Afghanistan's interior ministry said the attacker was shot and killed while trying to enter the passport office premises. A Taliban member said multiple people were injured, and the building and streets around the area were locked down by Taliban security forces. SOURCE: 23 December 2021, Reuters

(U) Thailand – \$30 Million of Crystal Meth Hidden in Boxing Punch Bags Seized

(U) Bangkok – Thai authorities have seized crystal methamphetamine with a street value of almost \$30 million stuffed inside boxing punch bags bound for Australia, officials said on Thursday. Customs officers inspected the shipment after growing suspicious of the Thai-made training equipment which is not in high demand in Australia, Thai and Australian officials investigating the matter told a news conference. More than 425 pounds of the drugs were hidden among 15 different bags.

SOURCE: 23 December 2021, Reuters

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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